A brief essay, study and some thoughts about the impact of free will and human responsibility, two sides of the same coin. In a sense, one could compare the third side of the coin, the edge it stands on as the inevitable consequences, foreseen or not.

Facilitator: Wouter van der Stok, the Netherlands, Spring 2018.

Contents. **Page**

Foreword **1**

Introduction **1**

1). Search for the origin of our struggles when exercising our free will. **3**

2). Is it possible to get answers to the afore mentioned questions and would these perhaps be of vital importance for modern humans, now and in the future? **4**

3). Analysis of what appears to have occurred before, during and after the creation of the first humans and a search for possible answers. **6**

4). How to deal with the underlying challenges? **15**

5). A look at potential solutions to our complex and chaotic situations. **17**

6). Some practical issues. **20**

7). Brief background particulars of the facilitator. **22**

Foreword.

Even though much of what is written in the next pages is already well known, the writer felt encouraged, not least because of receiving much guidance by way of very encouraging dreams, inspirations, prayers and revelations, to try and place the various complex parts of human free will, our subsequent responsibility and inevitable consequences as the vital core of human relationships, both vertical to God and the spiritual realms and horizontal to fellow humans, in a combined study encompassing both scientific and religious/revelation aspects. A prior study of the Divine Principle and the many speeches of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, our True Parent, by the reader would be strongly recommended. This brief and study hopefully encourages the reader to continue with further investigations by using the many tools and talents that our Heavenly Parent blessed us with, under the guidance of our True Parents and good ancestors.

Introduction.

If God is Good and the Original Creator, as most religions believe, why is the world and why are so many specific human beings, not just individuals but also millions, so bad and struggle - a question almost everyone wondered about, at least once but probably numerous times, during their lives? If God is all powerful, as is often believed by multitudes over the years, how can He allow so much never-ending evil in the world? Especially, but not exclusively, mass murders, torture, and genocide. Doesn't this seem almost contradictory? As far as we can tell, war and violence and many other bad excesses have been part of human society for millennia, not just in history but also still continuing at

present: for instance, the world has never experienced a year and not even a day without some war being fought somewhere on planet earth, civil wars or others! That evolved, as we all know, from individual/family fights to tribal wars, national and since the last century, international world wars and has now reached the, previously unlikely, stage where humans would be in the unfortunate position to blow up the whole world! Is that humanity's future? If so, then most of us would question what the purpose of human life is really – why are we here at all?

About two thousand years ago the Romans already agreed that, according to their view "homo homini lupus est" – in other words, "man is (as) a wolf to his fellow men" (not flattering for the wolf or humans) explaining in that way the timeless aggression, fighting and killing of human beings amongst each other. Maybe not such a friendly summing up, but actually making a very important point. On the other hand, they gave us also at that time the legal definition of human responsibility, that a man should act as a "pater familias" – as the father of a family. Presumably as a "good", caring and responsible father acting in good faith? If we study the sacrificial lives and works of saints, one could come to the conclusion that the apparent mixture of good and evil in human beings and society appears haphazard, in some kind of constant flux, as if the border line seems often grey and not just clear black and white and on top of that appears to be moving with time and circumstances?

According to the book of Genesis of the Old Testament spiritual and physical death amongst humans started in the family of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel but only after certain important human responsibilities were not fulfilled, more fully explained in the "Divine Principle" of Reverend Sun Myung Moon. At the time of Noah violence and evil had apparently spread on a very large scale according to Genesis. We subsequently come across numerous descriptions of situations, both in the Old and New Testament and during the following centuries, when humans' lack of responsibility by both leaders and followers resulted in great disasters. It almost seems as if the continuous stream of selfish, corrupt and aggressive actions and subsequent terrible results is somehow baked into and part of the human DNA? If so, would a solution then even be possible at all?

Might part of the problem perhaps be our general ignorance of and failure to see immediately or in a very short time after our actions, the poor or even really bad consequences of that lack of responsibility? Especially if those consequences, while playing out much later in time, could result in a repetition of similar circumstances as the original mistaken action, but now involving different persons/situations or even generations – sometimes referred to colloquially as "the Wheel of Karma". Can mistakes made actually be corrected afterwards and the original status quo be re-established or does this depend also on the seriousness of the mistake(s) made and/or the number of people/generations involved? Because of the experience of immediate pain felt, a small child would not quickly repeat placing its hand on a hot stove plate and a quick lesson is probably learned for life. Most of the time such a quick life lesson is not always learned by everyone making "mistakes" or being irresponsible. Sometimes a long time can pass between the wrong decision, the action and the resulting consequences.

Humans grow physically and spiritually through the various stages of childhood, teenagers, adolescents and adulthood, experiencing struggles on the way and developing ways how to deal with such upcoming challenges, set-backs and disappointments as well as irresponsibility. Many times we go through the stages of "denial" –"it is not so serious" – "everybody does it" - "this will never happen to me" - "or if it does, it will never happen again" – "nobody will know", "we are just

experimenting to see if we like it or not (such as smoking of cigarettes, drinking alcohol containing liquids, drugs and so on)", "just socialising", "is the cure not perhaps worse than the illness", "do the means justify the ends", etc. Consciously or sub-consciously many of us have, often at an early stage in our lives, come to the defeatist conclusion that it has always been like that, so nothing will change and one has to adapt as much as possible to life's ups and downs and learn to live with it. Of course, once started on a downward slope it might be difficult to change course once we are set in our ways?

In general human responsibility, both in the physical as well as in the spiritual world, can be divided into two different parts: 1) responsibility to make the right choice(s) and avoid mistakes (hopefully learn from them if mistakes are made), i.e. "being responsible" and 2) responsibility to correct and indemnify previous mistakes, made by oneself, group/nation or institution (collective guilt and thus responsibility to rectify), either in the past, present or future.

1). Search for the origin of our struggles experienced when exercising our free will.

While struggling with the many questions in life, it has been part of being human that, whether through experience, curiosity, ambition, faith or so-called gut-feeling and inspiration/revelation or scientific tests and discoveries, human beings have continuously sought both for the origin and extent of our free will and possible solutions to change the ways we have been going about exercising it, sometimes caring for and at other times injuring others and ourselves during our lives. In that search for clarity and innovation, numerous ideas have been offered, sometimes later encapsulated in laws, of a religious/spiritual/philosophical, social, economic, scientific/academic and even political/military nature. We pride ourselves of having made progress since "the bad old times" and try to build in modern safeguards. Even though methods and means and technology have changed over the ages, when important decisions have to be made, we are mainly just repeating the past in one way or another, guided most of the time by our basic selfishness, our instinct for survival, a wish to control people and circumstances and our short term ambition, often unable to see the larger picture or long term impact, hiding behind our so-called "mismanagement" or ignorance.

We have all heard the political saying that "nations don't have friends, only interests" and so-called deals are made all the time and sometimes broken for selfish reasons or perceived to be in the interest of one party and not necessarily the other party: instead of following the well-known win-win road, via the other two win-lose and lose-win roads, most of the time we end, overall, in the worst lose-lose situation. Then we almost always blame the stupidity, ignorance and wilfulness of the other party (never ourselves) while actually unforeseen consequences, general ignorance by both parties, lack of training/experience and wisdom are some of the real causes, supported by "false flag" conspiracies and propaganda. Unfortunately, it is also in our nature to generally try to blame others and deny or postpone rectifying mistakes made by us.

Promises and treaties can be broken if there is enough pressure involved, either by perceived changed circumstances or vested interests. By way of independent and impartial courts of arbitration, such as the League of Nations, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and many other organisations humanity has tried to create overall "referees" to solve international problems and disputes. Once again however powers of veto by some participants and the overriding interests by the more powerful participants negate outcomes regularly. Laws can be cancelled/repealed, changed, ignored, or replaced by different laws and culprits not brought to

justice for a variety of reasons. Even if originally well meant, rules and regulations are often bent and thereafter broken. It is almost as if humanity has been tinkering to repair a broken situation but, so far, without a permanent solution acceptable to all. Will this also continue in the future?

A humanistic drive for human improvement over the ages, while perhaps sometimes well intended, driven by curiosity and/or ambition, has not given us the Holy Grail of permanent peace between individuals, families or groups/nations, possibly because we never properly understood the underlying core of the problem in properly using our free will, i.e. our compromised mental/spiritual DNA, inherited over the ages from our ancestors and not always well understood or acknowledged? If so, then no wonder it has taken such a very long time to repair/correct the symptoms of our global malady. In medical terms, it would, in hindsight, naturally have been better if such a global epidemic had been prevented at source in the beginning, rather than afterwards try to heal it!

So let us try to go back to the origin of our free will and then work forward from that point, provided we can first of all agree that the global and historical symptoms as described above are real and suffered by all, also in our time and age and, unless we grapple with it correctly, will probably also endure in the future (if there is a future?). The oldest written (and many times passed on orally over the ages) explanation of such an origin can be found in most of the world's religious scriptures and is generally described as follows and raises many questions:

a) Where does the idea of the pre-existence of an Original Creative Being and the subsequent Act of Creation originate?
b) What guided our knowledge of the coming into existence of other world(s)/dimensions and its inhabitants predating ours?
c) With the coming into existence of our world, of the first humans and their family and their original purpose - what were the underlying principles involved?
d) What happened at the time when mutual influences, motivations and interactions were exchanged between the Original Creative Being, the inhabitants of dimensions predating ours and the first human ancestors and human family and what subsequent drastic changes were brought about?
e) Were the driving forces which motivated all these beings, involved in subsequent specific actions, perhaps made possible because of the existence and the use of free will?
f) If the original ideals were not yet realised, were these then perhaps postponed?
g) Why could the new, different and catastrophic directions and their immediate impact take place – was our free will the real cause?
h) What were the direct results of those new directions and the subsequent consequences in the past? What about the present? Hopefully subject to change in the future?

2). Is it possible to get answers to the afore mentioned questions and would these perhaps be of vital importance for modern humans, now and in the future?

Most of us would be extremely grateful if, after having inherited a certain disease or handicap from our ancestors, new medical breakthroughs would, first of all, determine their cause (probably via symptoms and experiments), then discover certain medicines to slow its impact, and finally a method/medicine to heal the disease/handicap and thereafter ascertain ways to avoid future outbreaks of the relative problem. It is well known that humanity is globally suffering from innumerable inherited diseases with often clear disastrous results, some visible over the short term

and others over a longer period. Apart from the physical, we also come across many mentally and spiritually inherited diseases/deformities.

If, as is firmly acknowledged by most of the main-stay religions, humanity's problems originated at the time of the Fall of the First Humans caused by the well-known Original Sin and humans have been cursed with its consequences ever since, how has that been transferred from a relatively small number of people to about 7 billion today? "Sin" has often been described as life without God or any thought, word or deed or any condition separating us from God. Scientists have tried to explain for many years that we inherit physical, mental and spiritual characteristics from our ancestors by way of "nature" (inherited DNA, etc. and earth's nutrition) and "nurture" (education, experiences), in other words via biology and psychology. Physical attributes (DNA replication occurs in all living organisms and is the basis for biological inheritance), behaviour etc. develop and persist, not only within a single individual but across generations.

Life's experiences can directly affect our genes – not only our own life experiences but also those of our mother's and grandmother's. In 1992 in Madrid, two scientists, Szyf and Meaney came up with a revolutionary synthesis, namely that epigenetic change can be passed down from parent to child, one generation after the next, not just by diet or chemicals, but also by certain traumatic experiences such as starvation, warlike conditions, child neglect, drug abuse or other severe stresses. The DNA remains the same, but psychological and behavioural tendencies are inherited. "Behavioural epigenetics" underlie not just deficiencies or weaknesses but also strengths and resiliencies. The genome is the blueprint of life, but the epigenome is life's "etch a sketch": the family curse can be wiped clean! Our ancestors' (and not only one's mother's or grandma's) lousy childhoods or excellent adventures might change our personality, leaving a legacy of anxiety or resilience by altering the epigenetic expressions of genes in the brain.

In this connection it would be interesting to study the, probably big, differences between the citizens of Switzerland, which has not experienced a war on its land for hundreds of years (apparently because of their geographic position between the protective mountain ranges) and the citizens of the rest of Europe, who suffered terribly over many centuries, especially during the 20th century.

Some say that spiritual qualities are transferred to children via their father's line and mental qualities via their mother's line. If one accepts that the "Original Sin", which caused the death (not necessarily physically but especially spiritually) of humans according to Genesis 2:16-17 and following verses, was inherited by all humans since times immemorial, and thus the root of a terrible obstruction from which many subsequent personal, family and tribal /national sins developed over time, one can then more clearly understand that this has continued to haunt and affect humanity. From the above we can understand that curses could be wiped clean and each person has the vital opportunity to either add to the troubles our ancestors experienced and pass these on (plus our own?) or, alternatively, start to wipe the slate clean as much and as quickly as possible as we can! This might eventually not just affect our future descendants but also have good or bad repercussions in the world of our ancestors, the "spirit world" and perhaps even the "angelic world", explained in more detail in the following chapters.

Most of us would probably agree with the statement that a person's free will, i.e. choosing, say, to do or not to do, is a gift from God, the Original Creative Being. However, while many people would accept the understanding that the original ancestors of humanity were a special creation by God,

there are also many who find it difficult to accept the potential existence in the past of an original Adam and Eve. Not so long ago, science has come up with a partial interesting explanation, namely that, by way of the mitochondrial DNA, modern humans apparently do all come from one original Eve. Some similar scientific evidence of the existence of the original Adam might not be that far away.

Modern humans would also point out the possible discrepancy between the "special creation" aspect of the first human ancestors and Darwin's well known theory of micro evolution between species and his subsequent conclusion that macro evolution must have taken place as well. However, it would be good to remember that, since that time, not a single case of macro evolution has been found in evidence.

3). Analysis of what appears to have occurred before, during and after the creation of the first humans and a search for possible answers.

a). Where does the idea of the pre-existence of an Original Creative Being and the subsequent Act of Creation originate?

As we live in a world ruled by time and space, of a beginning (birth) and end (death) and numerous cosmic laws and regulations (not least of all nature's Yin and Yang conditions), none of which originated in the creative thoughts initiated by any human being, it was and is quite natural for humans to accept, as was done by billions of people over thousands of years, the pre-existence of an Original Creative Being, known by many different names. That conclusion was easily reached, seeing that all the numerous variations in the cosmos could not have just appeared spontaneously without any creative force or forethought.

While it might be difficult for modern humans to accept anything without some scientific proof, we should realise that we only accepted X-rays, infra-red rays and the fact that dogs have better hearing, birds better eyesight, bears better smell, whales and dolphins better sonar, bees and birds better GPS, snakes better heat spotting than we, mainly this past century. New inventions and discoveries continue to amaze us all the time! Of course, it is not so easy for us to imagine a world (spirit and/or angelic world) outside time and space as that would no doubt be ruled by different laws from the ones we are used to. Just as it would be very difficult or impossible to explain to a fish (or for it to understand), while swimming and living in the seas and oceans, the facts and laws of living on land? Or even the possibility that there would be anything other than the ocean water? In order to see and understand the vast expanse of the ocean, the fish would need to be taken out of the ocean water, causing it to die.

b). What guided our knowledge of the coming into existence of other world(s)/dimensions and its inhabitants predating ours?

This has been inscribed and explained in most of the Holy Scriptures of the main religions for thousands of years and regularly confirmed and experienced by numerous mediums and spiritually attuned persons all the time. There is much good quality literature available on the subject for those who are interested and an occasional visit to a well-known and reputable spiritual church in the neighbourhood could widen one's insight and help to understand that our physical death is not just the end of our life on earth, but the beginning of our life in the spirit world, our real home. Apart

from the hundreds of times the words soul, spirit, angelic and spirit beings and applicable explanations are mentioned in both the Old and the New Testaments, originally in Genesis 2:26-27 "God said let us make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us….So God created human beings, making them to be like Himself. He created them male and female….". From this one can conclude that God ("let us") was talking to other previously created beings (angels) who apparently assisted in the work of creation for quite a long time and that the fact that humans were created male and female "like himself" showed that God in Himself had the original attributes of "male and female" which would thereafter come into existence especially in humans and to some extent in all life on earth.

As an analogy we can look at ourselves: when we create, paint, build, sculpture, etc. there is something of ourselves placed into our creation, many times visible when the subsequent creations are compared to each other. WE MAY FACE THAT SAME SITUATION THE MORE WE PROGRESS ON THE ROAD TO CREATING INTELLIGENT, SELF-TEACHING AND SELF-EXISTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. WOULD PERHAPS ALL OUR HOPES, EXPERIENCES, CHARACTERISTICS, INCLUDING SELFISH AND UNSELFISH CHARACTERISTICS/PERSONALITIES BE ENCAPSULATED IN THESE NEW CREATIONS? WITH POSSIBLY POTENTIAL DISASTROUS RESULTS?

Before these angelic assistants/workers/scientists/specialists and their leaders, often called servants or messengers of God, who helped God with the creation could really do their work and be successful, they and their world/environment would have had to be created first. What were the motivations for their creation, their function or goal and is there some way that we can perhaps ascertain this? Did they fulfil all God's expectations? With what results/consequences? Somehow such a world or dimension would also, having been created by God, show to a certain extent evidence of God's own attributes more or less as in our world: a certain order or hierarchy with laws and regulations and characteristics, internal and external, contents and purpose. Just as everything in our universe, our planet earth, minerals/water/atmosphere, plants, animals and humans went through growing stages (still continuing today) until their purpose was achieved, this would no doubt also apply to the angelic world/dimension.

Did all the angels grow to perfection in their realm in the past or were many or all of them still going through growth stages and experiences when the "Final Creation" of human beings took place? Did they also have creative abilities, free will and responsibilities somewhat comparable to our own? If the final perfected purpose of the angels' existence was still to occur at some time in the future, what were the challenges they faced at the time and perhaps still now? If God's motivating internal force is True Love, as is generally believed and to some extent visible in humans' parental love, mutual love between married couples, child's and siblings' love (and even to a lesser extent in nature), would that to a certain extent also be found in the angelic world? Aspects such as love for God (and probably ones leaders), ambition, curiosity, knowledge, own opinions, etc. would then also be found there. We see this in the fact that, in the book of Genesis, the archangel Lucifer: 1) knew about God's guiding warning given spiritually to Adam and Eve but 2) went on to sow confusion in the minds and hearts of Adam and Eve by suggesting a different reason why God gave the warning to the humans. So the first humans had the responsibility at a certain stage to believe either God or Lucifer: whoever they would trust more would to a certain extent be based on who seemed more believable but also on which action would seem to be more desirable and advantageous at the time, while they were still growing up.

This source of confusion in the archangel's mind could be seen in the resulting different direction his love for God took to a love for himself, his own position and his own opinions and ambitions: the beginning of selfishness making a separation from God's ideals and love and a belief of being unjustly victimised and reduced in value and position. At some time, he may even have discussed his fears and feelings with his Creator, but seemingly was not reassured. While ambition directed to fulfil God's hope and purpose would have been laudable and joyful, he started to distrust God's motives and subsequent actions. No doubt it probably grew for quite some time in his mind and heart but, having his own free will and own responsibility, he had the tools to analyse and redirect these. Before one acts in open rebellion, there is usually a prior period starting with, at first, muted criticism in one's own heart and mind before becoming stronger and more open and finally being shared with others. At first probably mainly with colleagues lower in rank and under his control. Discontent and conspiracies normally start that way and then develop and spread further to others, in the end mobilising as many as possible. The Bible mentions that eventually one third of the angelic world followed Lucifer, showing that discontent and doubt spread wide and far, possibly even before the creation of the first human beings, and continuing today. On the other hand, it shows that not all the angels were infected, as apparently two third remained loyal to God.

Disrespect and doubt became important by-products and even though God must have realised what was happening, certain absolute and unbreakable laws of True Love were subsequently misused by the rebels in the expectation of opportunities to change the situation to their own end and advantage. Not fully realising the inevitable short- and long-term consequences and impact of the misdirection and finally misuse of their free will and lack of responsibility, retreating from God's True Love dimension had and still has, devastating results in all worlds. Even though Lucifer understood God's motivation for the creation and the existence of the absolute Law of True Love underpinning all, he was apparently still going through his own process of growth? Notwithstanding his extensive knowledge and experience, he lacked sufficient wisdom, love for God and God's children and trust and could not foresee or did not believe the many blessings the angelic world would receive after the perfection of the hearts and spirits of human beings as God's children. Instead he started to speculate about his own future and those of other angels, what it would be like once they would be "ruled" by humans perfected in HEART, created as God's own children. Instead of receiving love direct from God, he would receive it via God's perfected children. How would that turn out?

He expected to remain then in a subordinate position, forever as a "servant", only receiving a "servant's love" from God and not a "child's love", having to give up the love and position he received at first and eventually only receiving God's love from then onwards via the humans as God's children. We can imagine that he felt unappreciated, felt he deserved better and was entitled to it, having worked with God for such a long time and gathering so much knowledge and experience: his value should be higher than that of any new upstarts. What if this new experiment with the creation of human beings would not work out as expected? Were there possibly some previous "experiments" which did not work out so well? Where would that leave him and the angelic world?

What Lucifer and many other angelic beings may at the time not have properly understood is the fact that, for a spirit to have lived on earth in a physical form (i.e. humans), certain very valuable (but perhaps at times difficult) love dimensions would be opened up and experienced over much time, such as the four kinds previously mentioned, instigated and fully covered by God's True Love, which were then not available to the same extent in the angelic realms. These different experiences would

eventually also extend to the human beings who would afterwards go to their Spirit World. Especially the beautiful blessings of pure mutual marital love between husband and wife and unselfish parental love which were to be experienced by humans on earth centred on God, once perfected in Heart, were possibly at the time not yet fully developed and understood in the angelic world. These might have become available to them after the complete fulfilment of human (and angelic) responsibility, by way of a new and special blessing creation for the angels under God's grace and guidance.

By at first just questioning deep in his heart, then followed more clearly by doubting the potential future blessings, implications and real purpose of God's plan, Lucifer gradually lost complete trust in God and started to widen his "give and take" with other aspects such as his ambition (loss of power) and curiosity, influenced by his very extensive knowledge (assisting with many parts of the Creation process) and experience as a scientist over innumerable years. On the other hand, although very knowledgeable, he had not yet grown sufficiently in wisdom and in loving and trusting God. One might conclude that, by misinterpreting and thereafter misusing his knowledge of God's Plan, he did not just confuse and tempted the first humans to go against God's will and plan, but also infected many leaders and followers in the Angelic Realm. While Lucifer knew full well the seriousness of his crime at the time, that knowledge did not stop him even though many other very important Angelic Leaders tried to redirect his path and protect God's children, the first humans. It appears that he afterwards did not repent but continued in the same way, spreading more chaos in all the worlds. He did not try to correct the many abominable mistakes made even though he must have realised some or all of the results. In other words, he was very much in constant "denial".

We can imagine that Lucifer must have felt uneasy at the time as he very likely would have figured out the enormous impact and future consequences of his crime. The blessing of free will, given by God to his children Adam and Eve should have allowed them to exercise their responsibility as God's children, loving God above anybody else and following His warnings, trusting Him unconditionally. God's advice given to Adam and Eve would have been more than enough to halt Lucifer trying to change the course of history. Even if confusion and doubt would have crept into the first humans' mind, their hearts and conscience should have encouraged them to ask their Parent God once again for His guidance. Not caring enough for God and each other was the origin of selfishness which thereafter ruled humanity and caused its continuous downfall. Humanity followed, not just then but for aeons afterwards, not our True Parent God but the "stepfather" and crime boss, Lucifer whose name changed to Satan, who was and is supposed to fulfil his responsibility to raise, educate and protect God's children with his "life" but failed miserably, teaching them instead from the beginning the opposite, to misuse pure and unselfish marital love for one's own selfish purposes. By so doing he obstructed not just God's Ideals and His Plan but broke His Heart and brought hopeless chaos and created untold tragedies in all the various worlds in the cosmos, including his own.

c). With the coming into existence of our world, of the first humans and their family and their original purpose – what were the underlying principles involved?

Our Heavenly Parent created not just the internal and external worlds/dimensions (the cosmic "environment") and its inhabitants, but also the internal and external sides of the first humans and raised them up with True Love, under the guidance and protection of the angelic leadership, as teachers to assist them during their period of growing towards adulthood and full understanding of their roles and positions and channels transferring True Love.

As everything in the Creation went (and still goes) through certain growing periods before reaching maturity, our first human ancestors were no exception. Learning through experience and guided by a healthy curiosity and ambition, the period between early teenage and young adulthood is a time of great changes, upheavals and often emotional confusion. That time is usually a period of some rebelliousness, curiosity, searching for a deeper understanding of life and a wish for change and renewal while discovering one's own sexuality and learning how to deal with it.

Once maturity was reached by the first human ancestors in purity centred on their Heavenly Parent, God would have blessed them in holy matrimony as their parent and their spiritual hearts would have been joined together forever in beautiful marital love under God's True Love, uniting in an unbreakable love trinity forever. There would then have been no room for selfishness. In order to counter the potential aberration by Lucifer, God gave the warning "not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Good and Evil for if you do, you will surely die" (Gen.3:2-3) specifically to Adam and Eve, to confirm their dignity and status as His children (even though Lucifer knew about the warning too). For His children to become mature and perfected in True Love, they received the gift of Free Will to either follow or disagree with God's warning and by fulfilling their responsibility could then be acknowledged by God, inheriting his True Love, Life and Lineage. It would also be a counter to Lucifer's possible temptation.

The details of Lucifer and Adam and Eve's spiritual and later physical Fall by misuse of their sexuality, taking place too soon with the wrong persons outside God's Love (notwithstanding God's serious warning), is clearly described in the Divine Principle of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, our True Parent. In a way one might say, with hindsight, that God loved His children perhaps too much or expected too much of them? In order to grow and mature, certain conditions always need to be fulfilled especially visible in the case of plants, animals, human beings, etc. If God had changed these conditions for Adam and Eve, either before or after the Fall, surely He would then have had to go against His own laws and principles and hopes with the one result: that Adam and Eve and their descendants would never have been able to reach perfected maturity, now or ever in the future, in absolute unity with God's True Love and each other?

We could well believe that, apart from the serious and clear warning given by God to Adam and Eve, our first human ancestors, always living and talking in very close proximity to God as their parent, could quite easily have asked God again directly what to do or not to do. But even if she did, we know that in the end Eve still rather followed Lucifer's disastrous spiritual sexual temptation and after the spiritual Fall, realising that Adam was supposed to be her spouse, tempted Adam to have sexual relations too early and without God's blessing, causing the spiritual and physical Fall. Was the sexual and emotional force, mixed up with curiosity and the wish to be "grown up" and shed ignorance, too much for them? Over what period of time did this occur? We can ask ourselves why, before being tempted by Lucifer, did Eve not first talk to God or to Adam or other angelic leaders about this developing situation or if she did, why was she not determined afterwards to stick to God's Plan?

d). What happened at the time when mutual influences, motivations and interactions were exchanged between the Original Creative Being, the inhabitants of dimensions predating ours and the first human ancestors and human family and what subsequent drastic changes were brought about?

If the establishment of the unbreakable Law of Love (and Life and Lineage) underlying the Creation was originally motivated by the Core of True Love in the Centre of Heavenly Parent's Heart, it would no doubt be the absolute foundation of the whole cosmos. Any tampering with that law, even if at all possible, might very well have meant the end of the total Creation. It is for that reason that Lucifer, who had aeons of time to build up his knowledge, not least because of his extensive experience in assisting with the development and expansion of all the aspects of the Creation, understood its importance and misused it for his own selfish purposes. Although our Heavenly Parent understood what was happening, He apparently could not interfere directly in the humans' free will and subsequent responsibility as the Principle of Love and the humans' value/dignity as God's children was involved. Any such direct interference might have resulted in His children never being able to fulfil their original destiny?

Even though no clear distinctive male and female angels were created as yet in the angelic realms as were created in the human realm and therefore marital love as experienced by humans did not yet exactly exist there, male beings, as we also know from the human realm, do feel a certain percentage male (perhaps about 70%?) and female (perhaps about 30%?) emotions and feelings. In the case of the average woman on earth these percentages would probably be turned around. It is in that light that one could view present angelic "male" beings. It could possibly change after humans fulfilled their responsibilities completely where after a new creation of female angels might be instituted by our Heavenly Parent resulting in marital (mutual) love coming into existence in the angelic dimensions. At this time procreation seems to be the sole domain of the human physical/spiritual domain on earth for some time and therefore also the vitally important life experience of parental love for one's own offspring.

The selfish and criminal actions of part of the angelic world, especially, of Lucifer as the instigator, subsequently replaced God as the Centre in the world of humans by the disrupting and evil rule of Lucifer as the new Centre with the result of untold and terrible chaos both in the angelic, spiritual and physical worlds. Not just was history changed but also a self-destroying curse, feeding on itself, came into being. While a God-centred symbiosis should have guided all the different dimensions, these now came to stand against each other in permanent disunity and contradiction. Even though God's blessings were supposed to have been passed on via, first the physical human world (and subsequent human spirit world) to the angelic world, the order was turned upside down. The angelic and spirit worlds took over much of the control of the physical human world, even though any restoration of the original ideals of God would have to come, first of all, by way of the (oppressed) human physical world – where the Messiah was to come from.

We can easily see all the awful characteristics which originated at the Fall in the whole human physical world and to a large extent in huge sections of the spirit world and angelic world. As we all know, there are special descriptive names for those areas. Instead of all the various parts assisting each other in repairing/restoring the situation, history has shown that contradictions and disunity have been ruling instead and continue right up to and including our time. The environment developed by human ingenuity and technical and other innovations leading up to the present day "civilisation", especially these past 200 years or so, has not really changed anything basically: instead of evil kings using swords and guns we now have dictators and tyrannical governments using missiles and bombs and instead of small armies we have now huge standing armies resulting in the flight and displacement of millions upon millions of refugees.

e). Were the driving forces which motivated all these beings, resulting in subsequent specific actions, perhaps made possible because of the existence and the use of free will?

While God-centred True Love was supposed to be the overriding force to drive the motivations and unity of all the afore mentioned beings both in the spiritual/angelic/physical worlds, as mentioned previously a new force came into being, at first gradually and then more obvious. The difference between selfishness and unselfishness was initially very small and might easily have been rectified. One could compare that to the initial variance at the start of drawing a 90-degree angle. If the difference at the source would be an error of, say,1%, then afterwards, giving enough length between the two legs involved, the 1% difference might increase very substantially to 40% or much more in the end and thus becoming constantly more difficult to correct.

If one uses the comparison of colours, starting from pure white along the colour line, adding a tiny fraction of off white might not even be visible in the beginning, but if constantly more is added, the difference might eventually become very noticeable going perhaps, via the colours of snow, eggshell or cream to light grey, etc. So also, the variations of love centred on the individual and love for the whole might appear to contradict but if balanced to the satisfaction of both the individual and the whole (community) these could very well support each other. Too far to the one or the other side would upset that balance. The fixed point between the balancing of the two forces would always be God's True Love, but then that balance was upset by the Fall, causing chaos and the new fixed point became Lucifer's establishment of selfishness mainly for the individual self, i.e. love for the self at any cost.

Love for me, my family, my tribe or community, my nation or group of nations, more often than not disregarding or even at the cost of others, gradually took over and became the normal routine encapsulated in "my survival" and "nations have no friends, only (own/selfish) interests". Is it any wonder that constant fights, violence and war on all levels was the result? One of the aspects that already at a very early stage became evident was the amazing "hubris" and "might is right" which spread like a vicious, almost uncontrollable virus from certain parts of the angelic world to the unfortunate inhabitants, first of the physical earth and subsequently of the (human) spirit world.

f). If the original ideals were not yet realised, were these then perhaps postponed?

The history of humankind, although mainly atrocious, has also evidenced on the other hand a certain clear line of development showing us that our Heavenly Parent's True Love has continued to guide, advise and encourage those of His children still trying to understand His Heart and Ways. Unfortunately God's Providential Plan took millennia to fulfil, not least because the number of good people ("saints") has been severely limited in many aspects but also because those chosen once again did not always fully understand God's directions and failed to exercise their vital responsibility, especially at the time of Jesus and our True Parents. One could come to the conclusion that in our time now once again, humanity has come to a definite crossroad to choose which way to go: continue the past which so far has not yielded any good solutions or go for a change of the core of our hearts, minds and spirits to the God-centred True Love and Living for the sake of Others, influencing eventually not just a changed physical world but also a restored spirit and angelic world.

Unfortunately, by way of blood ties and/or mutually shared, common interests, the spirit world ancestors have been able to influence many of their physical world descendants via transferring

thoughts and feelings and experiences, often for selfish reasons. These would often strengthen our doubts and confusion and/or weaken our will power and wish for good actions. To most well intentioned people it looks strongly as if humanity has at present painted itself into a corner to decide, not just on a national, but global and in the end cosmic level: survival of spirit and physical body as was intended in the beginning by God or annihilation and another further serious setback of God's Providence in all worlds/dimensions. We can no doubt expect in the meantime the latest tremendous pressure to be increased substantially.

g). Why could the new, different and catastrophic directions and their immediate impact take place – was our free will the real cause?

Development of humans, as God's mature children, should take place during certain growth periods, not just the physical but also the emotional, mental and spiritual sides. As part of such a development our Heavenly Parent made the Law of True Love as our absolute core with the blessing of giving us Free Will, to be exercised by the proper use of our human responsibility in terms of God-centred absolute True Love. That way humans could be standing as His Children, acceptable to anyone in the Cosmos as small "Lords of the Creation". Instead of using our birth right as God's own children properly, we squandered our legacy by rather following a "false stepparent" in a kind of kidnapping case, lowering our status from that of princes/princesses to that of servants of servants or even beggars/criminals.

Lucifer's method to tempt Eve to have spiritual sexual relations with him (i.e. the spiritual Fall where after the physical Fall of Eve with Adam took place, before they were ready and before the time of God's intended marital blessing of both), followed, according to the book of Genesis, a certain way. The archangel not only sowed confusion in Eve's mind, heart and emotions by lying about Heavenly Parent's motivation (the origin of distrust in God) in giving the clear warning, but he also promised her the reward of "becoming like God, knowing good and evil" and lied about it. He thus clearly failed to unite with and take God's point of view but preferred his own selfish opinion and discontent. He did not take God's warning, which he knew about, seriously. Lucifer's desire to grab illicit power by selfishly misusing the Law of Love (he did not care about God his Creator or God's daughter Eve or son Adam or any potential bad consequences) and by distrusting God, caused him to lie to Eve making a promise he could not keep. Eve from her side desired to have the sexual experience, which she would have had with the right person, Adam at some later time under God's blessing. Driven by emotion and the wish to get that experience, believing Lucifer's false promise and not deeply thinking about trusting her Heavenly Parent and Adam, the road to selfishness was started and later expanded time and again in many different ways by numerous persons.

From the beginning God's created beings were endowed with an Original Conscience to self-regulate and test possible thoughts, words and actions and reactions to ensure a "good" direction in accordance with God-centred ideals. A certain digestion process would usually allow for some time to pass for growth and eventual execution or obstruction of such ideals. That would in turn lead in the end to a point of realising that, coming to a final red line in the sand, one way or another a decision had to be made. Apart from all the many other aspects involved in the Fall, one that stands out as an important influence before and at that time would be the hubris or arrogance, bordering on contempt, of the responsible parties, but especially of the archangel, thus silencing the impact of their Original Conscience. This force of hubris we can see still all around us, encouraging many people

(also those in the spiritual worlds) especially in leading positions, to overcome the natural force of their Original Conscience, and not just in direct or indirect murderers, etc. but very widespread. This would seem to be one of the many (unforeseen?) consequences which grew in importance over many centuries as a sort of compounding result of constant repeating and bashing.

h). What were the direct results of those new directions and the subsequent consequences in the past? What about the present? Hopefully subject to change in the future?

The direct results of both the spiritual and physical Fall was the immediate spiritual "death" of Lucifer, Adam and Eve as God had warned. In other words, they could not receive God's True Love as before and heart-to-heart communication also suffered much. One might make the comparison that unselfish love, trust and honesty disappeared while selfish power, greed, corruption, lies and difficulty to feel sympathy and empathy came to replace these – and not just on earth but also in the Spirit World and parts of the Angelic World. We know from experience that bad people strike not only individuals and their interests but also the near and far family members, friends, colleagues, countrymen, etc. for "leverage" to achieve their goals.

Even when laws are created to "keep the peace" and to anchor trust, honesty and real justice, trying to reduce or prevent bad results, real justice alone is not sufficient anymore in view of the general distrust ruling human hearts and minds, so it is vital that not only must justice be done, but must be seen to be done. It is not just the wording, form and contents of laws which are important but also if they are enforced or not, how soon and by whom? The number, variety and intensity of foreseen and unforeseen/unintended consequences built up in the past, appear to have reached a global crescendo at present on so many different levels, for all to see. The methods used by powerful persons and groups of persons to retain their power (or add more to it if possible) and control has not changed over the years.

We have to deal with confusion, propaganda, lies and so-called unforeseen consequences all the time, even including so-called "false flag" exercises to start wars. For example we notice lately the digitalisation of banking and replacing of cash banknotes, the "snooping" of all our words and e-mails and all communication, the mass collection of everyone's DNA for record of health (and other?) purposes in many countries, facial recognition, knowledge of our physical whereabouts at all times, etc. all to extend the State's control over all its citizens for protection against terrorists/other criminals. So apparently no more privacy in the hope that the State, not just now but also in the future, will be run by good people? When some people criticise or complain, the reply is usually that it is for our own good and, if one still objects, certain "safeguards" will be built in, which can however be ignored, forgotten or later amended as is to be seen everywhere. With all the (new) technological innovations and assistance and now also with Artificial Intelligence (AI) this trend is just increasing annually. What about present or future unintended consequences?

Some say that the spirit world has (unseen?) control over much of the physical world and that our world is the world of reflected symptoms. As an analogy, the power of the spirit world and our (not always so good) ancestors could perhaps be compared to an iceberg: one seventh part can be seen above the water, i.e. the physical world, and six seventh part is unseen under the water, i.e. the spirit world. If we can see mainly the symptoms in this world, then the actual problems causing those must be quite substantial in the spirit world! If at all possible, how to help correct these? To what extent are we on earth at present still being manipulated by the spirit world and angelic world? If still

substantially more percentage-wise than 80 or 90% of our global population and it is mainly through cooperation with those now in the physical world that real changes can come about in all worlds, would the impact of those on earth exercising their free properly, in line with God's directions and subsequent positive responsibilities at the present age than not be more vitally important than ever before in history?

4). How to deal with the underlying challenges?

When bystanders told Jesus: "Master you are good" he replied: "No one is good, but God". So also Rev. Moon once said in one of his many speeches: "There is only one you can really trust, that is God". TO BE GOOD MEANS TO BE TRUSTWORTHY, BOTH FOUNDED ON TRUE LOVE. One of my best friends, a colleague and fellow missionary, wrote once : "At first the missionaries were poor, selfless idealistic "nobodies", but while working centring on God and True Parents and tirelessly sacrificing, gradually a foundation for the Providence of Restoration was built up and eventually, after many decades, they became respected "somebodies". Their transformation was not because they were any smarter, stronger or with deeper hearts than the average person. It came because they followed the example God was showing humankind through True Parents, insuring always to give out more than receiving, living for the sake of others. Then God's power and grace could come down to bless that situation."

Most of us have heard of the saying : "The (early Christian) Church grew through the blood of martyrs" – this is true for all God-centred people who loved God and fellow humans over the ages. It is the way of sacrifice to build God's Kingdom and change the evil (wrong way) of "might is right", which is usually caused by a multitude of selfish, i.e. wrong - way thinkers and doers supported by more numerous armies and/or superior weapons, etc. Actually the heart-breaking sacrifices of peoples' lives who, notwithstanding standing on God's side, were not just sacrificed but might even (temporarily) be tempted to act on the wrong/dark side (by way of resentment, revenge, thirst for justice at all cost, stopping evil but then being contaminated, the end justifies the means, etc.), might be an absolute, unfortunately necessary indemnity requirement for a certain period of time. If this had not taken place, the result might very well have been the implosion or explosion of the cosmos (i.e. the physical and spiritual worlds) which would then have stopped to exist. Just thinking about these numerous sacrifices by saints and sages over the years might cause a person to cry, almost all the time, in both worlds.

In many parts of the Old and New Testament our Heavenly Parent repeatedly gave us, his children, very clear encouragement over the years when exercising our free will, such as in Deuteronomy 30:1–20 where He says that we have a choice between life and death, between good and evil and between blessings and curses. When His children are following His guidance to love Him, to be obedient and faithful, His mercy and their prosperity will be the result. So it seems as if, from the time of Adam and Eve until today, giving us free will in itself is not the problem but actually allows us to grow in heart and spirit, happiness and self-respect and fulfil our original destiny. Why then have the wrong choices been made time and again? One could argue that a clear pattern has been growing over the centuries: while long term the choice should be easy, namely blessings over curses, in the short term there is time and again some force which confuses us and pushes us, often even against our will, to rather go in the opposite direction, promising immediate "real" benefits against only potential benefits over the long term.

As an analogy we could use the example, not just of the supposedly short term benefits of free sex say by underage teenagers compared to the long term blessings of marital life with one loving and faithful husband/wife, but also of our constant decisions wherein we rather choose immediate gratification above the wiser and more beneficial long term benefits of waiting patiently, even though those decisions are overriding our common sense and reason? How strong is the desire in us to "know" and "experience" some actions that we might deplore afterwards, perhaps the rest of our physical (and spiritual) lives, for instance when someone is, after free sex, subsequently infected with HIV/AIDS or at the age of a teenager faces the difficulties of an unwanted pregnancy? This notwithstanding many parental and other warnings given. Similar situations would also be applicable, for instance, to the dangerous first step of starting smoking, drinking strong liquor, using drugs, stealing etc., whereby millions are continuously falling in traps which later in life could result in enslavement or serious problems if continued long enough? One's free will would then not be so free anymore? Would negative growth instead of positive growth and development then normally be the result?

We could perhaps come to the conclusion that we are hardwired to virtually always make these wrong choices, eventually ending in our own and others' pain and destruction, so there is not much one can do about it? Alternatively, we have perhaps been infected (inoculation anyone?), over the centuries, with a "virus" that pushes us into doing things we don't really wish to do? How "free" is our free will in that case really? Many may have experienced that it is much easier to make decisions based on my own (selfish) benefit than those taken for the advantage of others to help them? Even though very few would like to admit it? Unfortunately, this would apparently not only apply to individuals.

If one studies groups, tribes or for that matter larger entities such as big national or international corporations, political, legal or security organisations, etc. would we then also notice a certain similarity to the individual situations discussed above? If we once again come across a sea of selfish-based and corruption influenced decisions, whether for financial gain, power and influence, sexual favours or just overall control, the "virus" especially after having grown and having more widely developed and spread, is still the same. Its methods would remain identical historically and geographically, including the "carrot and the stick" approach we all know so well. If bribes and corruption and promises won't work, the switch to threats is used quite quickly, in its many different ways, targeting individuals, family, friends, colleagues, etc. Even though all of us have been repeatedly warned about the terrible consequences of going this way, not just in this physical world but especially in the spirit world, the rows upon rows of millions marching to the dark side has never really stopped, notwithstanding numerous denials from our side while living on earth and assurances to our conscience that all is well and not so serious.

Our strange attraction to self-destructive choices, behaviour and incentives runs from individuals and families to entire societies. Sometimes initial conditions come into existence which in turn influence our incentive structures with the result that our various choices and behaviour are then linked to a system of rewards or punishments (such as specific taxation or subsidies) – affecting finally our, almost predetermined, choices. Any free will left? The quite topical global problem of the opioid epidemic, perhaps originally starting with pain stilling prescriptions, resulted in for profit dependencies, leading eventually to addictions and via a loss of self-reliance ended in self destructive behaviour. What has not helped much is the almost endless confusion that we are bombarded with

by way of fake news and advertisements, bordering on propaganda and manipulation? When everybody is "responsible" or "guilty collectively", could then a case be made that, in a sense, nobody is? If there is no "individual responsibility" or "guilt" who would then be able to change people or situations in a God-centred way?

The following four sections on page 35 and 36 in Outline of The Principle Level 4 (HSA-UWC 1980) clarifies the following important points:

1). THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT SELF WHICH HAS TO BE PERFECTED THROUGH THE PHYSICAL SELF IS A PERSON'S SENSITIVITY TO THE LOVE OF GOD.

2). WHO DETERMINES OUR (SPIRIT'S) STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT? NOT GOD BUT WE OURSELVES THROUGH OUR DAILY LIFE WHILE ON EARTH.

3). GOD, THE MESSIAH AND RELIGION CAN ONLY TEACH US THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WHETHER OR NOT ONE RECEIVES AND APPLIES THOSE TEACHINGS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.

4). Because of the Fall, immature humans lost the absolute standard of goodness and Lucifer (who became Satan) from that time on dominated humans illegally by directing their "evil mind" towards evil, against God's will and direction. While the human conscience has since then represented each one's personal view and opinion of the Truth, the result was a different standard amongst human beings. OUR GOAL IS TO REACH GOD'S DIRECT DOMINION WHEN OUR ORIGINAL MIND WOULD DIRECT US TO GOODNESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF CREATION.

As far as the ordinary man and woman in the street is concerned, what if we don't want to think and be responsible for our and each other's lives? We just want to be left in peace. Our daily worries about job and family are more than enough for us just to survive? If independent thought and critical reasoning would be required, would everyone then have the potential to make a difference? Would that open our eyes and finally our hearts sufficiently to help us to make life changing decisions?

5). A look at potential solutions to our complex and chaotic situations.

What are the various options open to us? The first and most important one would be how to liberate God, our Heavenly Parent, who has been tirelessly working for aeons of time with a parental heart of True Love to save and uplift, not just all his children both in the spirit and physical worlds, but also all the angelic beings. While it is most difficult for us in our present immature state to understand God's Heart, His thinking, feeling and ways of action, we should strive to bring our Heavenly Parent continuously into our lives, loves and lineage by regularly reporting our challenges and discussing our options and experiences in prayer with our Heavenly Parent, thus ensuring that our compass always points towards our Heavenly Parent and our actions are aligned with His Will. One might be forgiven to think that God should not just receive all our love and respect but also all our sympathy as He remained true to His True Love Principle, tying His Hands so to speak, not being able to use force or power, but afterwards struggling to search for and encourage his children to come back to Him of their own free will, an unbelievably sad and pitiful position to be in for such a long time?

In the famous words "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7-11) we are shown that it is because of our free will that we can approach our Heavenly Parent or not but thereafter it is our responsibility to ask, seek and knock on the door

and then receive the promise that we will receive, find and that the door will be opened. The way/method and the timing of the answers, giving us a fresh input is not decided by us and, if not instantaneous, might discourage us initially, but it will be done in the end.

In the story of Genesis 4:13-15 we read that, notwithstanding Cain's misdeed in killing Abel and receiving a curse from God, God gave a certain protection to Cain at his request. Similarly God has been blessing fallen humanity by sending prophets, the Messiah, saints and sages and our True Parents over the ages with the aim of granting His children the opportunity to understand His Heart and return to their originally intended position of absolutely good True Children.

We find a similar story in Luke 15:11-32 about the heart of a father longing for and finally happily receiving his lost (prodigal) son back. Also, the stories/parables about a shepherd searching for and happily finding his lost sheep in Matt. 18:10-14 and Luke 15:4-7. From these it is clear that God wishes for both Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel to return to Him, so not just those in the Abel position but also particularly those in the Cain position: it is the family as a whole that needs to be restored to its original position.

In the past humans were often, when meeting strangers, at first very cautious as these might be enemies. Then Jesus taught us 2000 years ago that we should treat our fellow humans as we would like to be treated ourselves. A next step might also be to view a stranger as a friend we don't know yet. Nowadays we could possibly reach the stage to view a stranger as a potential spiritual child who could very well fulfil a type of Messiah's role towards us, helping us to come closer to God? This would surely be a revolutionary step on the road of humans' spiritual and heart development? In the end such a giant step forward would encourage the deeper development of our capacity to sympathise, empathise and enlarge our feelings of compassion, charity, understanding and wisdom towards our Heavenly Parent and fellow human beings. This process would take place in the core of our hearts, feelings, thoughts, words and finally actions. One could compare this to a gradual increase in the volume and form of our HEART, the core of our spirit, so the increase in contents coming from God's True Love could then be contained and experienced and put into practice by us.

The goal to become absolute good spirits would in that case start on earth, under the eventual protection and guidance of our absolute good spirit ancestors in the spirit world, with the aim to become mature absolute good spirits by the time those persons would go to live permanently in the spirit world. One could imagine that this was the original intention for the creation of humans – once realised, the in between stages represented by all the various religions, would to a large extent start to fall away as substantial unity between God and His Children would be a fact of life and our beloved Heavenly Parent could then enjoy living with His children for the first time in history. The definition of unity - the state of being united or one joined as a whole: oneness.

The short sighted, selfish (love, thoughts, words and actions directed mainly to me as an individual and maybe my family, for a large extent to the exclusion of others) measurement of values would really change. Has humanity as a whole not almost exclusively always emphasised the vital importance, first of survival in the physical world built on the foundation of our limited knowledge of that world, and thereafter on "enjoying" that earthly life the most while we can, protecting and securing our privileged position as much as possible? For that protection and security we think that many physical needs require absolute priority including food/drinks, clothing, housing, transport, jobs/businesses to earn money, entertainment, military protection/power, political/financial/legal

power and if that is not sufficiently available in our opinion, we try to get that by influencing/manipulating (so-called “lobbying”) the various power points to increase/improve our own situation.

Once we have reached a sufficient level, we are influenced by “growth” thoughts: we need to expand everything, in the end that becomes the driving force of our thoughts and actions, whether we realise it or not. Even if we claim ignorance of these core driving forces, we are still subjected to them by way of other peoples’ pressures, the environment, specific conditions, etc. One problem is that such a kind of “growth” often cannot easily be separated from “greed”. We feel that we are excellent businessmen when our family’s assets and our companies keep on growing each year and very talented politicians and bankers/economists when the GDP of our nations show annual growth figures in excess of most other nations, never mind the level of corruption or the increasing gap between 99% of the not so rich population and the 1% really very wealthy or the misallocation and/or misuse of scarce and disappearing resources. What is more important: our drive for profits and growth at all costs which is now taking us more and more to an Artificial Intelligence World with all its many dangers, or the chase to produce needed good quality/healthy articles/products and jobs and sustainable/optimal use of scarce resources?

Our present general measurement of success is closely linked to our system of rewarding incentives: apart from chasing continuous growth many of us also have the strong urge to look good in the sight of our superiors, never mind whether we are effective or not. On the other hand, too many selfish/corrupt/evil people, especially in positions of power entrenched/supported by many favoured underlings, have seemingly not been sufficiently held accountable on earth, although most probably that did happen in the afterlife in spirit world. But here too, accountability should happen very much also in this physical world (as well as in the world of spirits), but also seen to be happening on our planet so as to make absolutely clear that “crime does not pay”.

That could possibly help in curtailing the dark side in our midst but should be applied, not just to the petty criminals but especially to the rich and powerful, including politicians, etc. It appears that a start was made by the founding in 1945 of the International Court of Justice situated in The Hague, the Netherlands but it is debatable how far its mandate and successes stretched, keeping in mind that the United Nations Security Council is authorised to enforce the court’s rulings, subject to the veto power of the five permanent members of the council?

Over many centuries our capacity to receive God’s True Love lessened as our spiritual channels clogged up, comparable to the silting up or clogging of one’s arteries before getting a heart attack or stroke. So, apart from the numerous physical ailments people experience every day, through the compounding effect of the different kinds of wrong, ignorant and selfish ways of thinking and acting, we drifted gradually from relatively minor problems to huge ones in both the physical and spirit worlds. Instead of working hard to lessen the problems we caused, we actually kept on increasing them to the point of a potential total destruction of humanity, especially during the past 80 years or so. In a sense it could be said that the way we measure and count the jumping logarithmic strengths of earthquakes may also be applied to the mental and spiritual earthquakes we ourselves are causing due, not to our “free will” but to us never really understanding the vital importance and proper use of our responsibilities of falling in line with God’s way of thinking.

IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF WE COULD SHAVE OFF, ONE BY ONE, THE MANY STICKING "FALLEN MIND" ASPECTS AND BUILD UP OUR "ORIGINAL MIND" AND BY DOING SO REPAIR OUR COMMUNICATIONS GAP WITH OUR HEAVENLY PARENT. MIGHT THAT NOT MEAN GOING THE REVERSE OF THE WAY WE AND OUR ANCESTORS WENT IN THE PAST AND RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF "GIVERS" AND A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF "TAKERS" IN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT?

Hopefully, by replacing the old ways, we could counter those worn out ones by exercising practical actions directed towards increasing our capacity for True Love and Trust which, amongst others, by widening our good experiences might in the end assist us to "look into the future" and with God's guidance get clear insights in the potential future consequences of our thoughts, words and actions on all levels? Would such a search to replace the Low Road we travelled in the past with the discovery of the High Road not create a whole new physical and spirit world? No doubt it would be very helpful and speed up the sketching and planning stages of such a High Road by getting inter-active inputs from as many sides as possible under the guidance of our Heavenly Parent and good ancestors?

6). Some practical issues.

When we study our complex and vast cosmos (i.e. including the spirit and angelic dimensions), from the sub-atomic level to the biggest stars and planets and get a deeper insight in the internal and external sides of all the many creations, including our own, one could come to the conclusion that our Heavenly Parent's responsibility for bringing all these creations to maturity and continuity is pretty close to 99,9%? There appears to be a very small part however which has been reserved for spirit and angelic beings and humans on earth to fulfil themselves, perhaps comparable to just 0,1%? Even though in comparison very minor, the successful completion of that 0,1% responsibility of all the higher created beings seems still of tremendous importance for the successful and complete fulfilment of both the deepening experiences of God's Heart and realisation of His ideals: His higher created beings' total overall perfected maturity, that is for all of us to become what we were supposed to have been, according to our destiny, from the very beginning?

One might say that this small portion of our own responsibility is of such vital importance for us to fulfil, being linked to the gift and blessing of receiving our "free will" from our Heavenly Parent. Without that, we might never be able to realise God's ideal for us to become His True Children by inheriting His Love, Life and Lineage? If we somehow were able to interview our Heavenly Parent and ask the question what His most important hope for real eternal joy and happiness would be, we can imagine that the answer would be: for His children to fulfil their responsibility to grow, develop and reach perfection of unity in HEART with Him and each other for ever.

As part of our investigations we might come across the seemingly limited scope of our own free will: how "free" are we really if we did not choose our parents/ancestors, the time and place of our birth and death, being born male or female, our intellect/emotion/ will power, etc.? What about the environment we sometimes, without our own doing, find ourselves in: is it possible to be a good, innocent person in a war-torn situation? In this context it could be important, euphemistically speaking, to ensure that we don't end up so close that we can't see the forest for the trees. Let's take a step back and get a better perspective. If we focus too much on the numerous details, we might fail to see the overall view and the really important key points? Everything might not always be what it seems?

Our common sense and reason would teach us in general to rather treat causes, not just symptoms. Going one step further, it would no doubt be preferable to initiate the necessary preventive measures instead of afterwards trying to cure the “illness” or difficult situation. Unfortunately, time and again we prefer “comforting lies” to “unpleasant truths” and might call that the pill taking syndrome of dealing with difficulties. For instance, once we are diagnosed with diabetes/hypertension, instead of adjusting our diet and ensuring reasonable exercise, most people would find it easier to rather take the necessary pills. Many times, the pills we take are mainly to lessen pain but don’t actually solve the underlying cause, but at what cost in the end? This unfortunate principle we find everywhere. Legislation often follows the same route and rather treats the symptoms of a problematic situation instead of its causes, resulting in more bureaucracy, more social programs, increased taxation and finally a loss of productivity. Most of the time we forget that consequences arise from actions, even actions which just treat symptoms. To take the easy way out is of course always very tempting.

Fallen human nature has basically remained the same throughout history. If certain, not such good and benevolent entities, were exercising control of this world through fallen nature, which seemingly has worked quite well up to now from their point of view, why would any new directions then ever be required at all? For us as critical students it should make it somewhat easier to ascertain and clarify what has been happening, seeing that the fallen nature aspects of humans have not changed all that much over time? How would we recognise these aspects and once catalogued, come to a practical method for this world’s inhabitants to finally go the opposite way and indemnify the past and present erroneous way of thinking and acting once and for all? In this connection there is an interesting saying, presumably made by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn some time ago: “The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being”.

How can we recognise these fallen human nature aspects in myself and do the opposite with good and permanent results? What would our modus operandi be in that case? We can think of a few, such as lies, ignorance, immorality, greed, selfish power seeking, arrogance, stealing, cruelty and violence, hubris and many more, progressing in intensity and size and number of people involved to trade wars, cold wars, civil wars and hot wars. Our world, full of prejudice, gender, racial and many other national and international problems which have continued to plague us, seems not so concerned in rolling back these anomalies?

To go the opposite way would possibly mean to replace the following: lies with truth, ignorance with knowledge and wisdom, immorality with morality (including absolute fidelity in marriage), greed with benevolence, selfish power seeking with unselfish sharing of service projects, arrogance with humility, stealing (for one’s own benefit at the cost of another) to sharing and supporting others, cruelty with supportive healing, violence with protective support, etc. Although this has been known for a very long time, in reality progress, if made at all, has been extremely slow.

Some practical ways have already been tried, such as the establishment of so-called international schools where pupils of numerous different nationalities, cultures, races and religious backgrounds receive the same tuition in mixed classes, in that way overcoming potential prejudice and learning mutual respect, appreciation and cooperation as friends. International, interracial and intercultural and even interreligious marriages, especially between citizens of nations previously at war, even though not easy are already sowing seeds of overcoming past prejudices, replacing hate with the

prospect of loving families and generations, which in many cases are very successful. The fall-back position in such marriages, especially when troubled times might arrive, would be the constant compass with the arrow pointing to the fact that, whatever happened, our Heavenly Parent chose and approved my spouse for me. That would naturally imply in the first place that, instead of us searching for our own spouse ourselves, when aspects such as physical beauty, standard of education, possessions, etc. would be considered as very important in making our own choice, we would ask God for His guidance to find the right spouse for me and bless our union, not just for ourselves but especially for good future generations, ensuring absolute marital fidelity forever.

The great global demographic movements on all continents these past 80 years have also laid a foundation for big mutual religious, cultural and technical exchanges and understanding between East and West and North and South. The rock bottom basis of all these activities would still have to be God-centred and constantly monitored and redirected if necessary? While endeavours are being made to "live for the sake of others", without such a core these would probably just be praised as humanitarian with the danger that in the end certain selfish aspects would start to creep in again and the participants could lose their spiritual protection.

In that case, how much time, money, efforts, knowledge/wisdom and other sacrifices would be offered and for how long until disappointments and fatigue might overcome the person or group? As we can learn from history, everyone is in need of protection and inspiration by studying God's Word as much as possible while on the road back to develop the core of our HEART. To actualise that and speed up the development of our HEART, a so-called "shortcut" might be to search for and find our spiritual children: persons in whom we invest the best our hearts and minds can offer to assist them on their way to come closer to their own HEART relationship with our Heavenly Parent!

7). Brief background particulars of the facilitator, Wouter van der Stok

Born in Indonesia in 1940, at age ten I moved with my family back to the Netherlands. After having finished my education in the Netherlands I emigrated to South Africa in 1961 where I spent thirty years mainly in Commercial and Merchant Banking in South Africa, eventually being responsible, nation-wide, for the International Corporate Banking Services of one of the largest Banking Groups in that country. Subsequently, having started my own International Management Consultancy based in Cape Town, for 16 years I was in the fortunate position to have travelled extensively in Africa, Australasia, Europe and the Americas to offer financial and management services, advice and lectures to small, medium and large companies in various sectors such as import/export, manufacturing, fixed property, retail, tourism and agriculture.

After my return to the Netherlands end 2007, part of my time was taken up by giving lectures at an International Business School there and continuing my investigations into the practical impact of the 2008 Global Financial/Economic Crisis on the micro and macro economies of many different nations.

Since July 1970 when we were called by Heavenly Parent for a spiritual and economic mission, my wife and I have been supporting the Unification Movement in Cape Town, initially as pioneer missionaries in South Africa and Africa (Blessed by True Parents in December 1976) and subsequently in many different roles such as during the 1990's as Itinerary Financial/Economic/Business Lecturer and Advisor to all the World Mission Regional Directors, thereafter as Kumgangsan Development's

Advisor in North Korea and Hong Kong, followed by giving consulting services to our Movement's business interests, amongst others in the Netherlands, Nigeria, Zambia and South Africa.

My wife and I have been blessed with four fine children and ten beautiful grandchildren and live at present in the Netherlands.